

typically very pointed (Fig. 2). Western Australian specimens of *lesueurii lesueurii* and *lesueurii rhombifer* possess two, occasionally three, postanal tubercles. In the Eastern States there are three to five postanal tubercles.

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A NEWLY DISCOVERED BONE-BEARING DEPOSIT IN LABYRINTH CAVE, NEAR AUGUSTA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Recent discovery of fossil bones and teeth in Labyrinth Cave, which has been visited frequently by speleologists since 1961, shows that significant finds remain to be made in caves and other sites which seem to be well known. Mrs J. W. J. and Mr D. C. Lowry made the discovery while surveying a little-used part of Labyrinth Cave extending approximately north-eastward from the entrance.

Teeth and bones were noticed in a lithified cave earth adhering in patches to the cave wall; one of the teeth was recognized as wombat and another as *Sthenurus*, an extinct member of the kangaroo family. Mr and Mrs Lowry reported their observations to me, and also collected some bones lying loose on the cave floor nearby, two of which proved to represent *Sthenurus*. In February 1969, J. W. J. Lowry, G. W. Kendrick and I visited Labyrinth Cave and spent a day examining and collecting from this part of the cave, now called "Wombat Warren". We believe that the deposits merit more detailed palaeontological study.

The wombat tooth (Western Australian Museum specimen 69.4.4) is an upper or lower molar which could represent the extinct western species, named *Phascolomys hacketti* by L. Glauert in 1910 from Mammoth Cave specimens. The *Sthenurus* tooth (West. Aust. Mus. 69.4.3) is a lower molar either of *S. occidentalis* or (more likely) of *S. brownei*; molar teeth of these two species are very similar, and in fact the two species were regarded as one until recently (Merrilees, 1968a). A bird, not yet identified, but about the size of a swan, is represented by a fragment of coracoid (West. Aust. Mus. 69.4.5). The rear portion of a left lower jaw of a macropod (West. Aust. Mus. 69.4.2), larger than the modern Black-gloved Wallaby, but smaller than the Western Grey Kangaroo, also remains unidentified. The Koala (*Phascolarctos* sp.) is represented by a left lower jaw (West. Aust. Mus. 69.4.1) with a complete row of well-preserved cheek teeth.

These and several other fragmentary specimens (e.g. West. Aust. Mus. 69.4.8, 9) were all recovered from patches of well-cemented deposit adhering to the walls of the cave. In addition, interesting specimens were found on the floor of the cave. A frag-

ment of enamel (West. Aust. Mus. 69.4.10) from a very large tooth probably represents the extinct Marsupial Lion (*Thylacoleo* sp.), and a practically complete skull and mandible (West. Aust. Mus. 69.4.12) represent the Tasmanian Devil (*Sarcophilus harrisi*). The *Sarcophilus* mandible was firmly cemented to the floor of the cave, and the skull lay over it in the same position as in life, nearly buried in unconsolidated cave earth; presumably the carcass of the animal concerned came to rest in this position, and the flesh rotted away, leaving the skull and mandibular bones undisturbed. However, of the rest of the skeleton, only portion of a femur was recovered. A worn premolar tooth (West. Aust. Mus. 69.4.13) lying loose on the cave floor represents the extinct kangaroo-like *Sthenurus browni*. Other specimens lying loose on the cave floor nearby represent existing species such as the Short-nosed Bandicoot (*Isodon obesulus*—West. Aust. Mus. 69.4.32).

Labyrinth Cave is only the third south-western site reported to carry such a mixture of existing and locally or completely extinct marsupial species, the other two sites being Mammoth Cave (Woodward, 1910) and Strong's Cave. Preliminary notice of the Strong's Cave discoveries was published in this journal (Cook, 1963) and it is fitting that preliminary notice of the Labyrinth Cave finds also should be published here. Although more than half a century has elapsed since the fossil discoveries in Mammoth Cave, and six years since those in Strong's Cave, new information is still being won from the material collected, and from the sites themselves, and only interim reports have been published (e.g. Merrilees, 1968b). Many years may elapse before a full report can be issued on the new finds in Labyrinth Cave, but in the meantime it is encouraging to know that the age of discovery is not yet over.

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REMAINS OF *SARCOPHILUS* THE "TASMANIAN" DEVIL (MARSUPIALIA, DASYURIDAE) FROM COASTAL DUNES SOUTH OF SCOTT RIVER, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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A large egg (the "Scott River fossil egg") was found in coastal dunes south of Scott River many years ago, and subsequently lodged in the Western Australian Museum (Anon., 1962; Edwards, 1962; Hyslop, 1967). I took part in investigations on the site of this find between 1962 and 1964, and in 1967 revisited the area and collected surface material which apparently had weathered out during the preceding three years.